Ancient History

A) The Stone Age: Pre-History

Early man used tools of stone therefore known as Stone Age.

The Paleolithic period or old stone age (500000 BC – 9000 BC)

The Mesolithic period or Middle stone age (9000 BC – 4000 BC)

The Neolithic or New Stone age (4000 BC – 1000 BC)

End of Neolithic stone age is also known as Chalcolithic period: used copper and stone made tools.

B) Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) (2500 BC – 1500 BC)

Also known for Harappan civilization or Saraswathi-Sindhu civilization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Discovery/Finding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mohenjodaro (Mound of Dead)</td>
<td>Situated on the river Indus. Excavated by RD Bannerji in 1992. Findings: Great Bath, Great Granary, the Collegiate building and the Assembly Hall, the dancing girl made of bronze, Pashupathi MAhadeva/Proto Shiva seal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harappa</td>
<td>Excavated by Daya Ram Sahani 1921-23) The Indus Civilization is named after it as the Harappan Civilization. Stone dancing Nataraja found here.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalibangan (Black Bangles)</td>
<td>Discovered by BB Lal. Situated on the Ghaggar river. A wooden furrow; seven fire-altars; bones of camel found here.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chanhudaro</td>
<td>Discovered by MJ Mazumdar Situated on the river Indus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banawali (Haryana)</td>
<td>Discovered by RS Bisht on river Saraswati.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surkotada (Gujarat)</td>
<td>Discored by JP Joshi. Evidence of Horse found</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Town Planning: Systematic town planning was based on grid system; burnt bricks made houses; well managed drainage system; fortified citadel; highly urbanized; absence of iron implements.

Script: Pictographic (Fish symbol mostly represented)

Chief female deity: Mother Goddess

Chief Male deity: Pashupati Mahadeva (Proto-Shiva)
Letters were written from left to right and right to left. This type of representation popularly called Boustrophedon.

C) Vedic Period

a) Rig/Early Vedic Period: (1500 BC – 1000 BC)

Aryan means high birth

Aryans first settled region called Land of 7 rivers or Sapta Sindhawa

Dasarajan war (battle of 10 kings against Sudas) or Aryans vs Non-Aryans or Dasas Vs Dasyus or Early branch of Aryans vs Original inhabitants.

Tribe was known as Jan and king as Rajan

Samiti (election to selection of King)

Villages: Gramini

Religion: worshipped nature. Eg: soma means God of plants

Staple food: Yava (barley)

Rigvedic Rivers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>River</th>
<th>Name in Rigveda</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indus</td>
<td>Sindhu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jhelum</td>
<td>Vitista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chenab</td>
<td>Asikini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ravi</td>
<td>Parushini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beas</td>
<td>Vipasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sutlej</td>
<td>Sutudri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gomati</td>
<td>Gomal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saraswati</td>
<td>Sarasvati</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghaggar</td>
<td>Prishadavati</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cast as well as Varna system began during Early Vedic Period.

- Brahmins (Teachers and Priests)
- Kshatriyas (rulers and administrators)
- Vaisyas (merchants and bankers)
- Sudras (artisans and laborers)

b) Later Vedic Period (1000 BC – 500 BC)

Aryans expanded from Punjab over the Western Uttar Pradesh (i.e Ganga – Yumana Doab).
King became powerful.

King’s position strengthened by rituals like Ashwamedha and Vajapeya Yajna.

Society divided into 4 varnas

Gotra appeared first time during later vedic period.

Staple crop: Wheat and Rice

Religion: Prajapati (Supreme God)
   Rudra (Animal God)
   Vishnu (Preserver and protector of people)

Tin, silver and iron now became usage.

**D) Vedic Literature**

‘Veda’ comes from ‘Vid’ means ‘Knowledge’

Vedic literature classified into two: Sruti (based on hearing) and Smiti (based on memory)

4 Vedas:

i. Rig Veda
ii. Sama Veda
iii. Yajur Veda
iv. Atharva Veda

**Rig Veda:**

- Oldest religious text in the world
- 10 mandals (1028 hymns)
- Xth mandala contains famous Purushasukta which explains 4 varnas in detail.
- Famous Gayatri mantra in 3rd mandala.

**Sama Veda**

- Sama veda derived from ‘saman’ (melodies)
- Collection of melodies
- Contains Dhrupad Raga

**Yajur Veda**

Procedure for performance of sacrifice (hymns and rituals/sacrifices)

**Atharva Veda**
• Book of magical formula
• Contains spells and charms to ward off evil and disease

E) There are six schools of Indian philosophy called Shad-Darshana. These are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Darshan</th>
<th>Given by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nyaya Darshana</td>
<td>Gautam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaisheshika Darshana</td>
<td>Kanada Rushi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sankhya Darshana</td>
<td>Kapila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoga Darshana</td>
<td>Kapila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purva Mimansa</td>
<td>Jaimini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttara Mimansa</td>
<td>Badrayna or Vyasa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lokayata</td>
<td>Charvaka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F) Religious Movements (Jainism and Buddhism)

• Came into existence around 600 BC
• Great religious intellectual revolution during 6th century BC
• Beginning of second urbanization in India (also known as the age of Buddha)

Immediate causes:

• Division of society: 4 varnas, caste and gotra
• Reaction of Kshatriyas to Brahmins supremacy
• Vaisyas to improve their social position with increase in economic position

Jainism:

• Founder: Rishabadeva (emblem: Bull) born in Ayodhya
• 24 Tirthankaras (Great Teachers: Gurus)
• 23rd Tirthankara was Parshavanath
• 24th Tirthankara was Vardhamana Mahavira

Vardhamana Mahavira:

• Born: 540 BC near Kundagram near Vaishali
• He became ascetic at 30 years of age.
• Attained Kaivalya (Jina) (at 42 years age)
• Died at 468 BC (72 age) at Pavapuri

To attain Kaivalya Vardhamana Mahavira gave Triratnas of Jainism

• Right thought
• Right faith
• Right conduct
Jain Councils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Royal Patron</th>
<th>Development</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>300 BC</td>
<td>Pataliputra</td>
<td>Sthilabhadra</td>
<td>Chandra Gupta Maurya</td>
<td>Compilation of 12 Angas to replace 14 Purvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>AD 512</td>
<td>Vallabhi</td>
<td>Devridhigani Kshmasramana</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Final compilation of 12 Angas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jainism divided into two sects after 2nd council:

- Svetambaras (wearing white dresses headed by Sthulabhadra) settled around Gujarat and Rajasthan
- Digambaras (naked i.e don’t wear any dresses headed by Bhadrabahu) settled around Mysore.

Jain texts were written in Prakrit language

**Importance/Significance/major contribution of Jainism:** Jainism led to growth of regional languages like Suraseni out of which grew the Marathi, Gujarathi, Rajasthani and Kannada

**Causes behind decline of Jainism:**

- Extreme observance of ahimsa, penance and austerity
- No patronage from later kings
- Janis did not make any efforts to spread religion

**Buddhism**

- Founder: Gautama Buddha known originally as Siddharatha
- Born: 563 BC at Lumbini
- Great renunciation or Mahabhinish Karamana (symbol – horse) at 29 years of age after witnessing 4 scenes of life (old man, sickman, dead body and ascetic)
- Nirvana or enlightenment at 35 years age (symbol – Both tree) at Bodh Gaya under a papal tree.
- First sermon or Dharmachakra pravartana at sarnath.
- Death: 80 years in 483 BC at Kusinagar (U.P)

**Great Events of Buddha’s life**

- Janma (Birth)
- Renunciation (Mahabhinish Karamana)
- Nirvana (Enlightenment)
- Dharmachakra pravartana (first sermon)
- Mahaparinirvana (Death)

**Symbols**

- Lotus or Bull
- Horse
- Bodhi tree
- Wheel
- Stupa
Eight Fold Paths:
1. Right Understanding
2. Right Thought
3. Right Action
4. Right Livelihood
5. Right Efforts
6. Right Speech
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration

Buddhist Literature: (Pali language)
Pali language commonly referred to as Tripitakas (3 fold basket)
- Vinaya pitaka: Rules of discipline in Buddhist monasteries
- Sutta Pitaka: (Largest) contains collection of Buddha’s sermons
- Abhidhamma pitaka: Explanation of the philosophical principles of the Buddhist religion.

Buddhist Councils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Patron (King)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>483 BC</td>
<td>Rajagriha</td>
<td>Mahakasyapa</td>
<td>Ajatshatru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>383 BC</td>
<td>Vaishali</td>
<td>Sabakami</td>
<td>Kalashoka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>250 BC</td>
<td>Pataliputra</td>
<td>Mogaliputra tissa</td>
<td>Ahoka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>AD 72</td>
<td>Kundalvana</td>
<td>Vasumitra, Ashwagosha</td>
<td>Kanishka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Causes of decline of Buddhism:
- Use of Sanskrit, the language of intellectuals, in place of Pali, the language of the common people.
- Revival of Buddhism
Dynasties of Ancient India:

1) Haryanka Dynasty:
   - Founder: Bimbisara
   - Capital: Rajgir (Girvraja)
   - Ajatshatru
   - Udayin (fund new ©: Pataliputra)

2) Shishunaga Dynasty:
   - Founder: Shishunaga
   - Kalashoka (2nd Buddhist council)

3) Nanda Dynasty:
   - Founder: Mahapadma Nanda
   - Alexander king of Macedonia attacked India in 326 BC and fought the Battle of Hydapsus

4) Mauryan Dynasty:
   - Chandra Gupta Maurya: overthrew Nanda Dynasty. His court poet Megasthanese wrote Indica
     He adopted Jainism and went to Sravanabelagola with Bhadrabahu
   - Bindusara: Deimachos visited Bindusara court
   - Ashoka (greatest Mauryan ruler): Called Devanapriya (dear to Gods)
     Name Ashoka appear only in copies of Minor Rock edict-1
     First king to maintain direct contact with people through inscriptions.
     Kalinga war (261 BC) mentioned in 13th Major Rock. This war converted Ashoka to Buddhism under Upagupta
     Ashoka built Sanchi Stupa
   - Last Mauryan King was Brihadratha
   - The punch marked coins carrying the symbol of the peacock, hill and crescent famed the imperial
     currency of Mauryans.
   - Srilanka called Tamrapani is mentioned in Ashokan inscription
   - Language (script) used: Brahmi; Aramic and Kharoshi (N-W India) and Greek (Afghanistan)

Significance of Mauryan Rule:

- The emblem of Indian Republic has been adopted from the lion capital of Ashokan pillar at Sarnath
- Many Gurukuls and Buddhist monasteries (Taxila and Banaras) developed with royal patronage.
- Literary development- Kautilya wrote Arthasastra and Bhadrabahu wrote Kalpasustra.

5) The Indo-Greeks
   - Popular king: Menander 9 also called Milinda
   - Capital: Sakala (modern Sialkot, Punjab, Pakistan)
   - Converted to Buddhism by Nagasena
   - Milindapanho – a Pali text about the questions of Milinda.
• Greeks were the first to issue coins attribute to King and also the first to issue gold coins in India.
• Introduced Helenistic art.

6) The Shakas
• Famous ruler: Rudradaman I (AD 130 – 150) who repaired sudarshan lake (Kathiawar region)
• Vikramaditya (king of Ujjain) defeated the Shakas and stared Vikram samvat in 57 BC

7) The Kushans
• Greatest king: Kanishka who started Saka era (78 AD)
• First rulers to issue gold coins on wide scale known for metallic purity
• Famous court scholars: Parsva, Vasumitra, Ashagosha, Nagarjuna and Charak (Physician).

8) The Sunga Dynasty
• Founder: Pushyamitra Sunga
• This period saw the revival of Bhagvatism
• Patanjali wrote Mahabhasya

9) The Satavahana (Andhras)
• Founder: Simukha
• Famous king was Gautamiputra Satakarni
• Ikshvakus succeeded the Satavahans

10) The Pandyas: capital: Madurai
11) The Cholas: Kingdom called Cholamandalam. Capital: Kaveripatnam /Puhar
12) The Cheras: capital: Vanji (Kerala country)
• The Pandyas, Cholas and Cheras maintained trade with Romans

13) The Sangam Age
• Corresponds to the Post-Mauryan and Pre-Gupta period
• College or Assembly of Tamil poets held under Royal patronage
• 3 Sanagams held:
  1) At Madurai chaired by Agastya
  2) At Kapatpuram chaired by Tolkapiyar
  3) At Madurai chaired by Nakkirar
• Kural by Tiruvalluvar is called the “Fifth Veda” or “the Bible of Tamil Nadu”

14) Gupta Period
• Chandra Gupta-1: 1st gupta ruler to acquire the title Maharajadhiraja
• Samudragupta: also called the Napoleon of India (By V A Smith) on accounts of his conquests
• Harisena the author of allahabad pillar inscription was Samudra Gupta court poet
• Chandra Gupta II: Mehrauli inscription on Iron pillar near Qurub Minar is related to Chandra Gupta-II.
  His court adorned by Navratnas. Fa-hein (Chinese pilgrim) visited
• Kumargupta-I: worshipper of God Karthikeya and founder of Nalanda Mahavihara (great centre of learning)
• Skandagupta: last great ruler of Gupta dynasty.

15) Pushyabhuti Dynasty
• Greatest king was Harshavardana
• Defeated by Pulakesin-II
• Hieun Tsang visited during Harshavardhana reign
• Banabhata wrote Harshavardana and Kadambari
• Harshavardana himself wrote Priyadarsika, Ratnawali and Nagananda

16) Rashtrakuta
• Found by Dantidurga
• Rishna-I built Kailasha at Ellora

17) Ganges
• Ruled Orissa
• Narasimhaddeva constructed Sun Temple (Konark)
• Anantvarman built Jaganath temple (Puri)
• Kesaris built Lingaraja Temple (Bhubaneswar)

18) Pallavas:
• Founder: Simhavishnu
• Capital: Kanchi
• Greatest king: Narasimhavarman who built Mammallapurms (Mahabalipuram) and built rock-cut raths or pagodas.

19) Cholas
• Founder: Vijayalaya
• Capital: Tanjore
• Rajendra-I: title- Gnagaikonda and founded Gangaikonda cholapuram
• Dancing figure of Shiva (Nataraja) belong to Chola period.
• Local self government existed
• The chola style of architecture is called Dravida style